

## **JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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Agreement Between The Government Of The United States Of America And The Government Of Canada  
On Pacific Hake/Whiting

March 23, 2012

Ms. Susan Farlinger  
Regional Director General – Pacific Region  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Suite 200 – 401 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6C 2S4

William W. Stelle, Jr.  
Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
7600 Sand Point Way, NE, Bldg. 1  
Seattle, WA 98115

Dear Ms. Farlinger and Mr. Stelle:

The Joint Management Committee (JMC) established under the *Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Canada on Pacific Hake/Whiting* (the Agreement) met in Vancouver, B.C. on Wednesday and Thursday, March 14-15, 2012. The primary purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations to the Parties on: 1) the coastwide hake/whiting total allowable catch (TAC) for 2012; 2) each Party's national hake/whiting TAC, including any adjustments (uncaught TAC from the 2011 year to be carried forward to the 2012 year) allowed by the Agreement; and 3) operational and research measures for the proper care and management of the hake/whiting resource.

### Recommendation on Coastwide Hake/Whiting TAC and each Party's National TAC

Consistent with Article II 3.(e) of the Agreement, and after reviewing the advice of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC), the Scientific Review Group (SRG), and the Advisory Panel (AP), the JMC recommends a coastwide TAC of 192,746 metric tons (mt). Based on Article III 2. of the Agreement, the Canadian share of the coastwide TAC is 26.12 percent, or 50,345 mt, and the U.S. share is 73.88 percent, or 142,401 mt. Consistent with Article II 5.(b) of the Agreement, an adjustment (carryover from 2011) of 15,427 mt is added to the Canadian share, for an adjusted Canadian TAC of 65,772. In the same manner, an adjustment of 43,636 mt is added to the United States share, for an adjusted United States TAC of 186,037 mt. This results in a coastwide adjusted TAC of 251,809 mt for 2012, which is consistent with the default harvest rate of F-40 percent with a 40/10 adjustment identified in Article III 1. of the Agreement.

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### Additional Recommendations

Based on the advice of the JTC, SRG and AP, and pending available resources, the JMC recommends the Parties' approval of a 2012 acoustic survey. A 2012 survey will help address the uncertainty surrounding current stock size and age structure. The JMC also suggests that the Parties consider implementation of a hydroacoustic survey on an annual basis.

The JMC also recommends that a workplan for a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process be developed for the next meeting of the JMC, scheduled for May 29-30, 2012. Evaluation of the benefits of an annual survey should be included as a consideration relative to the MSE.

The JMC urges each Party to review these recommendations in as timely a manner as possible. Both the Canadian and United States fishing seasons start in the spring, and a timely decision on the TAC would allow for efficient planning of operations.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. Additional information, including a summary of the meeting, will be forthcoming.



Paul Ryall  
Co-Chair  
Joint Management Committee



Frank Lockhart  
Co-Chair  
Joint Management Committee